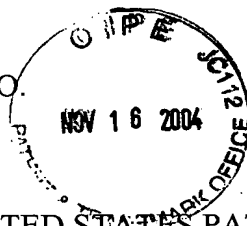


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11/17/04

PATENT APPLICATION
09/750,311

AF
IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RULE 116 AMENDMENT RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

In re Application of: Fulvio (nmi) Arecco, et al.
Serial No.: 09/750,311
Filing Date: December 29, 2000
Group Art Unit: 2633
Examiner: David S. Kim
Title: AUTOPROTECTED OPTICAL COMMUNICATION
RING NETWORK

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Willie Jiles

Willie Jiles

Date: November 16, 2004

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 4, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the claims in view of the following amendments and comments as set forth below. Please amend the Application as follows.